



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

April 8, 2016

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PAUL'S NOTE

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CompostCats have been working for a few years to get local businesses to recycle their food waste. Late last month, their efforts earned them recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency.

CompostCats started in 2011 as an effort to get the U of A Student Union to put food scraps to use. The program has broadened in the short time since then. The effort now includes the City of Tucson and the Tohono O'odham Nation, who are part of Tucson's FoodCycle program.

Last week, Fry's Supermarkets announced that their Tucson locations will participate. This will bring to 50 the number of sites that par-

ticipate in the FoodCycle program.

(By the way, Fry's and many local stores already donate excess food to the Tucson Community Food Bank. This program takes care of scrap, spoiled and otherwise unusable items.)

FoodCycle participants collect food scraps on site and they are collected by our Environmental Services department. The containers are emptied once or twice a week and the scraps are taken to the San Xavier Cooperative farm on the Tohono O'odham Nation where it is mixed with green waste and turned into compost. The compost is then sold at area farmers' markets.

Since the program started, CompostCats

estimates that they have handled 10.5 million pounds of waste in the five years of the program's existence. With the many participants that have joined recently, they expect that this year they will handle 4.5 million pounds of food waste.

Not only is that 4.5 million pounds that can be used to grow new food by area farmers, but it's 4.5 million pounds that won't end up in our local landfill. When you combine efforts like this with recycling and other waste reduction, it adds up to being able to extend the life of our landfill facility and reduce long term equipment and infrastructure costs.

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

What does this mean for you as a taxpayer? The city's landfill can take waste for another sixty years. That's far off in some ways, but in the lifetime of our children. The cost of siting a new landfill in the coming decades would be enormous. Being able to get as much use out of our current facility is in our best interest.

That doesn't mean that short term costs won't go up. City staff has asked for an increase in the fee for recycling. We all love lower gas prices, but those along with a strong dollar and economic stress in Europe have made it harder to market recycled goods. Environmental Services made nearly \$1.9 million from recycling in 2011 but are projected to make zero revenue in 2017.



The proposed fee would vary depending on revenue and it would end when revenues exceed \$750,000. That number has been reached in all but one previous year of the recycling program.

The proposal has merit, but please let me know your thoughts.

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Moon Yee, known to his friends across Tucson as Joe, is being recognized by LULAC with a Soldado de Cuero Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joe started his business life running a farmer's market on North Oracle and eventually opening a second near 22nd and Swan. After getting out of the grocery business in the 1980's, he worked in real estate and commercial development.

Along the way, he has been involved in numerous organizations in our community, including the Tucson Planning Commission, Citizens Accountability for Regional Transportation, Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church Parish Council, Grant Road Task Force Committee, Pima County Inter-Faith Council Tucson-Taichung Sisters City Committee, Tucson Chinese Chamber of Commerce. He just finished a stint on the committee that is writing amendments for the city charter.

He earned the name Tio José while he co-hosted a show on KXEW with Ernesto Portillo Sr., and was a supporter of the farmworker boycotts in the 1960s.

I'm proud to be one of Joe's many friends in Tucson and I hope that we have many more years of service from him.

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COMMEMORATIVE TREES

Tucson Clean & Beautiful, in cooperation with the City of Tucson and Pima County, announce the availability of commemorative trees along the Pantano River Park. Commemorative trees are available for purchase through Tucson Clean & Beautiful for \$225 each (partially tax-deductible), including the tree, irrigation lines and number marker installation, name dedication at a commemorative plaza, dedication certificate and guaranteed replacement. Trees may be purchased for dedication honoring special occasions, or in remembrance of any friend or family member.

Visit www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/commemorative-tree-parksto to dedicate a commemorative tree, or call B. J. Cordova at (520) 837-6832 for assistance.

The new Pantano River Park Commemorative Tree Program is based upon the success of the completed El Paseo de los Arboles commemorative tree project where 600 trees were added on the Santa Cruz River bank. Over the next several years, dedicated trees will restore more than two miles of natural habitat, and will grow to provide shade for users of this multi-use path. More than 275 trees already have been planted of the 570 trees that eventually will fill this park.

A dedication ceremony will be held May 6 at Pantano River Park, 1750 S Pantano Parway and will include a reading of the names for whom trees have been dedicated, and names inscribed at the nearby Children's Memorial Garden. An informal walking tour of newly-dedicated trees concludes the ceremony. Light refreshments will be provided.

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

Bernard "Bunny" Fontana passed away last week. I am something of a local history buff and Fontana's work contributed greatly to our knowledge of this region of the country. He was also a member of the Patronato San Xavier, the organization that takes care of one of our great Southern Arizona treasures, Mission San Xavier, which also happened to be his church. His love for San Xavier was deep. Photographer Edward McCain described it to Arizona Highways magazine:

To hear Bunny talk about the Mission was to be lifted to a new level of understanding, not just about the place, but about the importance of belief in our lives. As he spoke about the art and architecture of San Xavier, his sense of delight in discovering and revealing a deeper meaning was intoxicating and exhilarating. He did all this in a most modest and unassuming manner. He wasn't trying to impress anyone, he was just being his best self.

Bunny will be missed by our community.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

Fashion Show Field Trip: Seniors will have an opportunity to enjoy a fashion show field trip on Tuesday, April 12. The show will be presented by the Freedom Center's Sewing Club. Departure of the Udall Center is 10 a.m. and return is 1:30 p.m. Coffee and snacks will be served.

Pickle-ball: A Pickle-ball Clinic for beginners will be offered on April 13, 20, and 27 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a daily fee/membership required. Register for one of all three days. Visit the main building of Udall Center to sign up.

AARP Tax Aide: AARP free tax aide is offering services at Udall Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. through April 13, 2016.

For more information, please contact the Carol West Senior Addition, 791-4121

PARKS PROGRAMS

Udall Pool Spring Hours: The Udall Pool located at 7200 E Tanque Verde Rd will begin its Spring schedule on April 1st. Call 791-4004 for pool hours and additional information.

Summer 2016 Activity Guide: Watch for the Summer Tucson Parks and Recreation 2016 Activity Guide which will be published on Monday, April 18, 2016. The

Activity Guide will have complete information on classes, programs, aquatics, and registration. The guide can also be viewed at www.ezeereg.com.

Contact Registration Services at 791-4877 for more information or questions.



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Remember to like
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need**

LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/
Dance Equipment**

CASA MARIA—Plastic bags

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 19**. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session.

There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

